

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-06 EUR-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /066 W
-----118498 242152Z /61

R 241050Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8934

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:
SENT ACTION BANGKOK, INFO VIENTIANE ON (231000Z MAR 78)
FROM AMCONSUL UDORN, THAILAND.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF TH LA
SUBJECT: HMOG INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI
PROVINCE

REF: UDORN 0072

1. CONREP TRAVELLED TO PHON PHISAI AND BUNG KAN DISTRICTS,
NONG KHAI PROVINCE MARCH 22 AND 23, AND OBTAINED FOLLOWING

UPDATE CONCERNING HMONG REFUGEE SITUATION SINCE OUR LAST
REPORT (REFTEL).

2. PHON PHISAI: HMONG LEADER EX-SGU MAJOR YIAKHAO YANG,
WHO HAS BEEN ASSISTING DISTRICT POLICE WITH PROCESSING NEW
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HMONG ARRIVALS SINCE EARLY THIS MONTH, INFORMED CONREP THAT
FORTY SEVEN HMONG REFUGEES CROSSED MEKONG RIVER INTO DISTRICT
BETWEEN MARCH 18-22. HE STATED THAT TWO GROUPS AMONG NEW
ARRIVALS REPORTED CASUALTIES. A GROUP OF NINE HMONG
WHO ENTERED DISTRICT ON MARCH 18 SAID A TENTH MEMBER
OF THEIR BAND WAS KIA FROM LPDR GUNFIRE DURING APPROACH
TO RIVER. A SECOND GROUP OF TWENTY THREE HMONG WHO

ARRIVED IN DISTRICT MARCH 20 CLAIMED THEY SUFFERED SEVENTEEN KIA AND NINETEEN MIA FROM LPDR GUNFIRE AND DROWNING WHILE CONDUCTING MEKONG RIVER CROSSING. (THIS SEEMS LIKE A VERY HIGH CASUALTY RATE TO US. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM IT WITH OTHER SOURCES.) MAJOR KHAO YANG ESTIMATED AN ADDITIONAL SIX HUNDRED HMONG ARE STILL WAITING ACROSS RIVER TO SEEK REFUGE IN PHON PHISAI.

3. BUNG KAN: DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF MAJOR MANOP JITTAKASEM TOLD CONREP THAT TOTAL OF 266 HMONG CROSSED INTO DISTRICT IN VARIOUS SMALL GROUPS MARCH 20. HE STATED THAT, CONTRARY TO BANGKOK POST REPORT MARCH 22, HMONGS DID NOT RPT NOT COMMANDEER AN LPDR LANDING BARGE TO MAKE ESCAPE, BUT IN FACT USED RAFTS, SMALL PRIVATE BOATS AND PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES. CONREP QUERIED SEVERAL OF THESE REFUGEES REGARDING BORDER CROSSING EFFORTS. THEY REPORTED NO HMONG CASUALTIES.

4. MAJOR MANOP STATED THAT, BASED ON HIS DEBRIEFING OF NEWEST REFUGEES, ESTIMATED ONE THOUSAND HMONG WAITING ON LAO SIDE OF BORDER TO ENTER DISTRICT ARE BECOMING BETTER ORGANIZED, APPARENTLY HAVING DEVELOPED ARMED UNITS WHICH PROVIDE ESCORT SERVICE FOR SMALL GROUPS HIDING IN NEARBY FOOTHILLS TO MEKONG RIVER'S EDGE FOR CROSSING INTO THAILAND.

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5. IRC MEDIC DOCTOR GARCIA, TOLD US MARCH 22 THAT SHE HAD DELIVERED A TRUCK LOAD OF MEDICINE (BOTH TRUCK AND SUPPLIES PROVIDED HER THIS PAST WEEKEND BY NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL) TO NEW HMONG ARRIVALS AT PHON PHISAI AND BUNG KAN DISTRICTS MARCH 21. DR GARCIA STATED THAT NEW ARRIVALS ARE IN POOR HEALTH WITH GREAT MAJORITY OF LODER REFUGEES SUFFERING FROM CONJUNCTIVITIS AND MANY CHILDREN EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF SEVERE MALNUTRITION. SHE ADDED THAT RICE IS APPARENTLY AVAILABLE BUT REFUGEES LACK OTHER BASIC SUPPORT ITEMS.

6. ON BASIS OF DR GARCIA'S REPORT, CONOFF PHONED CAMA SERVICES REP HOME IN UDORN EVENING MARCH 22. WIFE STATES THAT HE IS VISITING REFUGEE CAMPS IN NAN PROVINCE BUT SAID THAT SHE WILL ASK HIM TO DELIVER SUPPLIES TO HMONG ARRIVALS UPON HIS RETURN MARCH 27 OR 28.

7. NONG KHAI DETENTION CENTER OFFICIALS INFORMED US MARCH 20 THAT TOTAL OF 447 REFUGEES (330 LOWLAND LAO AND 147 HMONG) WERE TRANSFERRED TO REFUGEE CAMP MARCH 18. THIS TEMPORARILY LOWERS DETENTION CENTER POPULATION TO APPROXIMATELY 900 BUT IT WILL SOON BE

INCREASED AGAIN WITH ADDITION OF LATEST HMONG ARRIVALS.

8. COMMENT: LATEST HMONG ARRIVALS RAISE OUR ESTIMATED
TOTAL OF HMONG REFUGEES ENTERING NONG KHAI PROVINCE SINCE
MARCH 1 TO 750.

9. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT HENRY KAMM ARRIVED IN UDORN
MARCH 23. LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT GEORGE MACARTHUR
WILL ARRIVE HERE MARCH 24. BOTH JOURNALISTS ARE INTERESTED
IN FILING STORIES ON CURRENT HMONG INFLUX.

FINNEY

UNQUOTE:

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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